

A NEW POLYPORE ON INCENSE CEDAR

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During the past three years the writer has repeatedly searched in California and Oregon for the cause of the "peckiness" or "pin-rot" of the incense cedar, which does great injury to the heartwood of this species, and often affects as high as 100 per cent. of the trees in a given area. The fungus whose description follows was found definitely associated in an apparently causal relation to the disease.

Dr. Hermann von Schrenk described this disease of the incense cedar under the name "pin disease" (Mo. Bot. Gard. Rept. 11: 45-55, *pl.* 2, 4, 5, June 3, 1899), without giving the cause. He later assigned the cause of the disease to *Polyporus libocedrus* (Science N. S. 16: 138, 1902), but, in the absence of type specimens and a description, there is no means of knowing whether or not his specimen and those now described belong to the same species.

Polyporus amarus sp. nov.

Pileus soft and spongy when young, becoming hard and chalky when old, ungluate, often spuriously stipitate from knot-holes, frequently large, 5-11 × 10-20 × 6-12 cm.; surface pubescent when young, rimose and chalky when old, at first buff, becoming tan and often blotched with brown when older; margin obtuse, frequently having an outer band of darker brown, often slightly furrowed; context creamy-yellow to tan-colored, usually darker in outer layers when old, bitter to the taste and often resinous near the base, somewhat like *Fomes Laricis* (Jacq.) Murr., 4-8 cm. thick; tubes not stratified, brown within, cylindric, 0.5-3 cm. in length, shorter next the margin, mouths circular or slightly irregular, 1-3 to a mm., yellow or yellow-green during growth, turning brown when bruised or old, becoming lacerate; spores hyaline or slightly tinged with brown, smooth, ovoid, 3-4 × 5-8 μ, nucleated; cystidia none.

TYPE LOCALITY: East slope of Marble Mt., Klamath National Forest, California. Specimens collected October 14, 1909; other specimens collected near Dunsmuir, Calif., October 16, 1907.